

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, January 29, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman *Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Stephen Grant*, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch; *Carleton J. Giles*, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles; *Josh Howroyd*, *Legislative Program Manager*, DCF; *Dora B. Schriro*, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Laura Cordes*, Director, CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services; *Scott Semple*, Acting Commissioner, Department of Correction; *Dr. Michael Norko*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; *Dennis Murphy*, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor; *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Richard P. Healey, Esq.*, Public Member; *Kevin Kane*, Chief State's Attorney; *Susan Storey*, Chief Public Defender; *Chief James Kenny*, Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association; *Sean Thakkar*, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information Systems

I. Welcome and Policy Update

Chairman Lawlor convened the meeting at 9:09 a.m. He welcomed everyone and announced that CT-N will be taping the meeting.

Link to CT-N coverage: <http://ct-n.com/webstream.asp?odID=11134&startat=0:00:40>

Chairman Lawlor discussed the Monthly Indicators Report prepared by Ivan Kuzyk at the Office of Policy and Management. The report was distributed at the meeting and Chairman Lawlor highlighted the positive trends in the report.

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website at:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_january_2015_rev.pdf

Chairman Lawlor reviewed the agenda and introduced the presenters of meeting.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented.

III. Approval of Minutes from December 18 , 2014

The minutes were approved.

IV. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Presentation: 2014 Crime Statistics Update, OPM CJPPD

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjcpac/20150128cjpacpresentation.pdf>

Link to CT-N coverage: <http://ct-n.com/webstream.asp?odID=11134&startat=0:04:38>

VII. Agency Updates

Members went around the group and provided an update on their agency and latest initiatives.

CT-N coverage of the agency updates can be found:

<http://ct-n.com/webstream.asp?odID=11134&startat=0:46:19>

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) – Working on policy priorities for the legislative session, which are very responsive to a number of reports that have been released recently, such as the service of restraining orders, Improving Outcomes for Children and Families Exposed by Family Violence, Batterer Intervention Programming and Standards.

Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD) – Thanked members around the table their partnership, as well as non-profit providers for all of the work they do and collaboration with CSSD. Discussed the adult recidivism rate, which has dropped to an all-time low of 40%. The three, six, twelve month cohort is decreasing. The agency is very encouraged by the SMART Probation grant the agency has received-presentation was made to CJPAC this past fall. The initiative has great promise across the entire probation caseload, specifically with the 18-24 year olds. This is a new approach to probation, and where the officer is digging in deeply and engaging with the client. The officers are practicing a whole different skill set aside from the usual reporting event. On the bail side, the agency continues to work collaboratively with DOC to reduce the pre-trial population. The failure to appear rate is below the national average. They believe this is contributing to the prison reduction. Lastly, the agency continues to partner with DOC and The Recovery Network Program. The targeted population is drug dependent defendants who are targeted for incarceration and the hope is to divert them into a drug treatment and community supervision model with the hope of stopping the repetitive cycle. The agency saw a slight uptick in the juvenile probation recidivism rate. Stated that this 2014 cohort includes 16 and 17 year olds, so the agency anticipated a little bit of a spike. The comparison is when this population was in the adult court vs. now being in the juvenile court is a double digit recidivism reduction.

Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) – Negotiations with current vendor, Xerox, are going very well. Hoping to have the amended contract signed by the end of the week, so they can provide progress in the coming months.

Office of the Chief Public Defender (OCPD) – The agency’s annual report (http://www.ct.gov/ocpd/lib/ocpd/publications/annual_report_of_the_chief_public_defender_2012-13.pdf) will be uploaded and available on the agency’s website next week. The agency saw a reduction in numbers in caseloads with the juvenile population, but still not seeing that in the GA’s. The agency is considering what this is attributed to, and continues to look into it. In addition, almost 90% of felonies, minor and major, are staying in the GA courts, where the caseloads are the highest. This is troubling to OCPD as far as caseloads. The agency is still encouraged to have the domestic violence social workers in Bridgeport and New Haven. They believe this a way to provide an additional layer of safety in that area, and to ensure people who are charged with domestic violence offenses finish the program and to ensure they receive the services they need.

Department of Labor (DOL) – Powerful way to reduce crime is to give someone a steady job. Last week, DOL reported that in December 2014, Connecticut added 4,800 jobs, and ended the year creating approximately 26,000 jobs. In 2013, Connecticut added 18,000 jobs making its way back to the pre-recession job numbers in the state. The state is 90% back to where it was before the recession. In addition, the unemployment rate went down to 6.4%. People are re-entering the workforce, and participation has increased.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) – Since October 2014, 12 lives have been saved due to Narcan being administered by officers. This program is proving to be very successful. Continuing to look at consolidated dispatch and ways to make it more efficient and more effective. This continues to be an ongoing effort. The Commissioner is finalizing a statutorily mandated state police staffing study, which is due to the Appropriations Committee and the Public Safety Committee by February 1, 2015. DESPP continues to work on the recovery of the blizzard of this past week. The agency is looking at data from the towns in the eastern part of the state to see if Connecticut would be eligible for a major disaster declaration.

Department of Correction (DOC) – Discussed the monthly numbers as of 01/28/15: *Total incarcerated*: 16,864 which is down by 515 this time last year and represents a 3.1% reduction. *Total Sentenced Population*: 12,289, which is down by 329 this time last year and represents 2.7% reduction. *The Accused Population*: 4,060, which is down by 176 and represents a 4.2% reduction. *Community Supervision*: 3,846, which is down by 4,020 and represents a 4.3% reduction. 93 offenders currently in the DUI Home Confinement Program. Also stated they are preparing the agency for some pretty dramatic and comprehensive reentry strategies that will complement the numbers that were presented at today’s meeting.

Office of the Chief State’s Attorney (CSA) – The CSA’s office has been pursuing, on behalf of the Division of Criminal Justice, public and private grant funding to try and find better ways to address low risk offenders, and those charged with lower level crimes. They are looking to establish pilot programs to possibly help reduce the burden on the Judicial Branch, Office of the Public Defenders, and the Division of Criminal Justice resources. Thanked DOL’s Deputy Commissioner Murphy for DOL’s partnership with the Unemployment Compensation Fraud Unit initiative. The initiative has been very successful.

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) – Provided two updates: (1) Started this month off with a statewide multidisciplinary assault campus prevention conference. Had over 25 of Connecticut’s public and private institutions attend. Discussed Wesleyan University in Middletown as being a strong participant in the initiative and committed to a very ongoing public collaboration to better educate their staff on the criminal justice process, and to be more supportive when students and survivors come forward. (2) Acknowledged the work of the Judicial Branch and the Office of Victim Services, and working with them to establish the civil protective orders for sexual assault and stalking victims whose offender or respondent may not be a family or household member. Since the beginning of the year, there have been approximately 60 applications. Also working with the Office of Victims Services on trainings being offered.

Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) – Hearings at the BOPP has increased. To date, the agency has had successful board confirmation hearing of their nominees. BOPP is meeting with CSSD at the end of February to review more than two dozen Certificates of Employability applications.

Subcommittee Updates/Reports – brief updates were given on the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, Victim Issues Subcommittee, and the Prison Jail Overcrowding Subcommittee. Link to CT-N coverage: <http://ct-n.com/webstream.asp?odID=11134&startat=1:09:28>

I. Adjournment

Chairman Lawlor reminded committee members of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015. He adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.